

Appl. No. : 09/929,955  
Filed : August 15, 2001

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

#### Claims 1-20 (Previously Canceled).

<sup>1</sup>  
~~21.~~ (Previously presented) An immunogenic composition comprising a viral antigen and ~~ribavirin~~ for co-administration thereof, wherein said viral antigen is ~~a nucleic acid~~.

~~22.~~<sup>2</sup> (Previously presented) The immunogenic composition of Claim ~~21~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein said viral antigen encodes a hepatitis antigen.

~~23.~~<sup>3</sup> (Previously presented) The immunogenic composition of Claim ~~22~~<sup>2</sup>, wherein said hepatitis antigen is a hepatitis C viral antigen.

~~24.~~<sup>4</sup> (Previously presented) The immunogenic composition of Claim ~~23~~<sup>3</sup>, wherein said hepatitis C viral antigen comprises NS3.

~~25.~~<sup>5</sup> (Previously presented) The immunogenic composition of Claim ~~22~~<sup>2</sup>, wherein said hepatitis C viral antigen comprises NS4A.

#### Claims 26-27 (Canceled).

<sup>6</sup>  
~~28.~~ (Previously presented) The immunogenic composition of Claim ~~21~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein said nucleic acid comprises the sequence of SEQ. ID NO. 16.

<sup>7</sup>  
~~29.~~ (Amended) The immunogenic composition of Claim ~~21~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a fragment of the sequence of SEQ. ID NO. 13 that encodes an antigenic peptide.

<sup>8</sup>  
~~30.~~ (Previously presented) A method of making an immunogenic composition comprising:  
providing ribavirin;  
providing a nucleic acid that encodes a viral antigen; and  
combining said ribavirin and said nucleic acid to formulate said immunogenic composition.

*Call Eric  
Tumors*

9	NS3-pVAX	100	NS3/4A-SP2/0	No	-
10	NS3-pVAX	100	NS3/4A-SP2/0	No	-
				3/5	8.00±1.00

Note: Statistical analysis (StatView): Student's t-test on maximum tumor size.  
P-values < 0.05 are considered significant.

5 Unpaired t-test for Max diam  
Grouping Variable: Column 1  
Hypothesized Difference = 0  
Row exclusion: NS3DNA-Tumor-001213

	Mean Diff.	DF	t-Value	P-Value
10 NS3-sp2, NS3-spNS3	1.750	5	0.58	0.584

15 Group Info for Max diam  
Grouping Variable: Column 1  
Row exclusion: NS3DNA-Tumor-001213

	Count	Mean	Variance	Std. Dev.	Std. Err
NS3-sp2	4	9.750	24.917	4.992	2.496
NS3-spNS3	3	8.000	1.000	1.000	0.57

20 In the next set of experiments, the inhibition of SP2/0 or NS3/4A-SP2/0 tumor growth was  
*by NS 3/4A - TVAX immunization was determined*  
cells. (See TABLE 14). Thus, NS3/4A-pVAX immunization elicits CTLs that inhibit  
growth of cells expressing NS3/4A *in vivo*. The example below describes experiments  
that were performed to analyze the efficiency of various NS3 containing compositions  
in eliciting a cell-mediated response to NS3.

TABLE 14

Mouse ID	Immunogen	Dose (µg)	Tumor cell line	Tumor growth	Maximum tumor size (mm)
11	NS3/4A-pVAX	100	SP2/0	No	-
12	NS3/4A-pVAX	100	SP2/0	Yes	24
13	NS3/4A-pVAX	100	SP2/0	Yes	9
14	NS3/4A-pVAX	100	SP2/0	Yes	11
15	NS3/4A-pVAX	100	SP2/0	Yes	25
				4/5	17.25±8.421
16	NS3/4A-pVAX	100	NS3/4A-SP2/0	No	-
17	NS3/4A-pVAX	100	NS3/4A-SP2/0	Yes	9